

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 FDRE-00 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 /091 W

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P R 091311Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6652

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 4840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY: KING AND FONMIN IN MODERATE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE REAFFIRMED KING'S AUGUST 20 PROMISE TO AWAIT UNGA/ICJ PROCESSES, THEREBY REDUCING SOMEWHAT THE TENSION WHICH HAD BEEN BUILDING IN RECENT DAYS OVER POSSIBILITY OF GOM MILITARY ACTION. GOM THEME IN UN IS KEYED TO "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" COUPLED WITH ASSERTIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN JUSTNESS OF ITS CAUSE, WHILE THREAT OF RESORT TO FORCE REMAINS IN BACKGROUND. END SUMMARY.

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2. GOM COOLS RHETORIC. KING, IN REMARKS BEFORE OCTOBER 8

DIPLOMATIC CORPS AUDIENCE ON OCCASION END OF RAMADAN, REFERRED TO SAHARA AND SAID IT NOW LEFT TO NATION "TO WORK WITH SERIOUSNESS WHILE AWAITING INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS..." KING PROMISED TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE AGAIN ONCE ICJ ADVISORY OPINION WAS KNOWN "TO DECIDE PATH TO FOLLOW...SIDE BY SIDE AND HAND IN HAND". EXPLAINED THAT HE EXPECTED BE JOINED IN THIS EFFORT BY "BROTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WHO UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS MATTER AND WHO WILL NOT FAIL TO HONOR THEIR PROMISES TO STAND BY OUR SIDE AS WE HAVE DONE FOR THEM". HE ADDED AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT DIRECTED AT AFRICANS, REMINDING THEM OF IMPORTANCE OF CONCEPTS OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL LIBERATION IN THEIR PASTS.

3. OCTOBER 7 UNGA SPEECH BY FONMIN LARAKI WAS ALSO MEASURED AND DEVOID OF ANY MILITARY THREAT. HE MADE BIG PLAY FOR THIRD WORLD SUPPORT OF CONCEPT OF "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY". LARAKI REAFFIRMED THAT, FOR MOROCCO, WESTERN SAHARA "CONSTITUTES A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ITS NATIONAL EXISTENCE". SAID THAT UNGA'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING CONCRETE POLITICAL MEASURES FOR DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA MUST RESPECT "FUNDAMENTAL LAW" OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. CRITICIZED SPAIN REPEATEDLY, REAFFIRMED MOROCCO'S CLAIM TO NORTHERN ENCLAVES, AND CALLED ON SPAIN TO NEGOTIATE THEIR RETURN, SAYING THAT MOROCCAN POSITION SHOULD BE UNOBJECTIONABLE SINCE IT THE SAME AS SPAIN'S OVER GIBRALTAR. HINTED THAT NO MATTER WHAT ICJ "LEGAL" OPINION SAYS, IN "HEART" OF EVERY MOROCCAN SAHARA DECOLONIZATION WILL NOT BE REAL AS LONG AS TERRITORY IS SEPARATE. MOROCCO WILL NOT MAKE ANY PROPOSALS FOR TIME BEING, HE SAID, BUT ALL SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT MOROCCO'S OWN PAINFUL COLONIAL EXPERIENCE, DURING WHICH IT TORN ASUNDER BY PROTECTING POWERS, IS WHAT DRIVING IT NOW. SAID IT WOULD BE DISAPPOINTMENT TO SEE UN TAKE PATH WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO MOROCCO TO BE REFUSING IT ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN.

4. THE HARD LINE. AFOREMENTIONED STATEMENTS CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH STRIDENCY OF LAST WEEK'S GOM POSTURE. LOUDLY TRUMPTETED REPORTS IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS OF A GUERRILLA ACTION INITIATED BY GOM-BACKED SAHARA FRONT (FLU) OVER WEEKEND HAD OBSERVERS CONFIDENTIAL

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WONDERING WHETHER GOM HAD DECIDED TO MIX FORCE WITH DIPLOMACY. FLU COMMUNIQUE OCT 4 SAID COMMANDO ACTION AGAINST SPANISH FORCE IN SAHARA KILLED EIGHT SPANIARDS. HOWEVER, WE NOTE SPANISH NEWS SOURCES SAY LAND MINE RESULTED IN TWO INJURED. FLU STATED IT CONDUCTED OPERATION TO PROVE THAT ONLY IT WAS FIGHTING SPANISH, THAT F POLISARIO IS NOW IN COLLUSION WITH COLONIZERS. IN ANOTHER MENACING GESTURE, PRESS PLAYED UP JIHAD (I.E., HOLY WAR) THEME OF OCTOBER 1 EVENING RAMADAN

SERVICES, ATTENDED BY KING AND PRESIDED OVER, ON THIS OCCASION, BY THE IMAM OF THE DAMASCUS MOSQUE. PRESS REPORTED THAT IMAM DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE TO KING FROM SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD.

5. WE HAVE DETECTED NO SIGNS OF SLACKENING OF GOM'S ATTEMPTS TO MAKE GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS MILITARY POSTURE ALONG BOTH SAHARA BORDER AND SOUTHERN PART OF ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN BORDER, WITH RECENT EMPHASIS ON LATTER.

6. PRESS PLAY. ALTHOUGH GOM DID NOT DIRECTLY JUMP ON BANDWAGON OF INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST SPANISH EXECUTIONS, AUTHORITATIVE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS EDITORIAL CONNECTED SPANISH INTERNAL SITUATION AND SAHARA WITH CLAIM THAT BASQUE AND SAHARA ISSUES ARE PERFECTLY PARALLEL DECOLONIZATION PROBLEMS, THAT FLU AND ETA FIGHTING FOR SAME CAUSE, AND THAT INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COLONIALISM HAVE ISOLATED SPAIN IN EUROPE, THIRD WORLD, AND UNGA. NO REFERENCE MADE TO SPANISH INTERNAL SECURITY POLICIES (GOM ALSO VULNERABLE ON THIS SCORE) BUT SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS HAS FEATURED FOREIGN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS OF DISAPPROVAL. OPPOSITION PRESS GAVE HEAVY EMPHASIS TO HUMAN RIGHTS ANGLE, AND FREQUENTLY SPECULATED THAT SPANISH PROBLEMS HAVE CREATED NEWLY FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR MOROCCAN CAUSE IN UN.
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P R 091311Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6653

INFO AMEMBASY ALIERS

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AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 4840

7. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S AGADIR REFUELING STOPOVER, CONVERSATION WITH MIN OF STATE FOR COOPERATION BENHIMA, AND INTERVIEW WHICH DEALT MOSTLY WITH SAHARA. SENGHOR QUOTED AS STRESSING PRECEDENCE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OVER THAT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, VOICED STRONG SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN SAHARA POSITION, AND SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE SAHARA'S PHOSPHATES IN HANDS OF HIS "FRIEND". SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SPECULATED THAT HE DISCUSSED SAHARA WITH BOUMEDIENNE DURING SUBSEQUENT STOP IN ALGIERS.

8. OPPOSITION PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO URGE THAT GOM EXERCISE FORCE TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST (PPS) CHIEF
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ALI YATA QUALIFIED HIS PARTY'S POSITION BY SAYING THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION SHOULD COME AFTER ICJ OPINION BUT BEFORE UNGA CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION.

9. COMMENT: KING'S AND FONMIN'S NEW STATEMENTS HAVE RELAXED THE ATMOSPHERE SOMEWHAT, WITH GOM IN EFFECT REAFFIRMING ITS PROMISE TO AWAIT UN/ICJ PROCESSES. IN THIS CONNECTION, USUALLY RELIABLE SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD EMBOFFS OCT 8 THAT THERE HAD BEEN "MARKED IMPROVEMENT" IN SITUATION IN LAST FEW DAYS. AT SAME TIME, WE SEE NO ABANDONMENT OF END-OF-YEAR DEADLINE OR AUGUST 20 THREAT TO RESOLVE MATTER BY FORCE IF NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH THIS ASPECT HAS NOT BEEN EXPLICITLY REEMPHASIZED IN RECENT HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS.

10. LARAKI'S SPEECH DID NOT MENTION ALGERIA, A FACT WHICH WHILE PROBABLY REFLECTING GOM RECOGNITION OF ALGERIA'S THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS IS STILL SURPRISING GIVEN ACRIMONIOUS STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO. LARAKI ALSO REAFFIRMED MAURITANIAN TERRITORIAL INTERESTS IN SAHARA.

11. NORTHERN ENCLAVES HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF RENEWED EMPHASIS, WITH ALLUSION TO GIBRALTAR IN SAME CONTEXT. IN ADDITION TO LARAKI UNGA REMARKS ON SUBJECT, TWICE IN PAST THREE DAYS

PRESS HAS CARRIED OTHERWISE ORDINARY END-OF-RAMADAN MESSAGE
TO KING FROM MOROCCAN WORKERS IN GIBRALTAR, AND MAP TICKER
CARRIED IT AGAIN OCTOBER 8 RIGHT AFTER ITS STORY ON KING'S
REMARKS TO DIPLOMATS. THIS SEEMS TO REVIVE HINTS THAT AN
OVERALL SETTLEMENT INCLUDING SAHARA AND THE ENCLAVES MIGHT
ENTAIL GOM SUPPORT FOR SPAIN ON GIBRALTAR. SPANISH EMBASSY
SOURCE HERE HAS IN PAST RAISED THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF
SUCH A PACKAGE.
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